

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
Southern Division**

JAMES L. WILLIAMS, :
: ;
Plaintiff, :
: ;
v. : Case No. PWG 16-0058
: ;
CORELOGIC SAFERENT, LLC, :
: ;
Defendant. :
: ;

PLAINTIFF'S RULE 26(a)(1)(A)(iii) DISCLOSURE

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, James L. Williams, by counsel, pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1)(A)(iii) and the Court's March 15, 2016 Discovery Order (Dkt. No. 10-1), and makes the following damages disclosures:

I. Computation of Damages

A. Economic Damages and Specific Instances of Credit Denial

The Plaintiff has experienced specific and known damage in the form of a denial of an apartment rental in Ellicott City, Maryland. Plaintiff applied for this apartment so he and his wife could live near their college aged daughter while they looked to purchase and rehab permanent housing nearby. Because Plaintiff was denied the apartment based on falsely being accused as a sex offender, he was forced to commute from Chicago, Illinois to various hotels in Hagerstown, Maryland while he looked to purchase and rehab a permanent home. As a result of the denial, Plaintiff made the approximate 650 mile trip from Chicago, IL to Hagerstown, MD on at least five occasions, four by car and once by air. Plaintiff estimates that the cost for each trip by car-by calculating the approximate mileage by \$0.55- to cost him \$715.00, one way. Plaintiff also flew once, an expense he estimates at approximately \$300.00. Plaintiff also incurred hotel expenses for

approximately 26 nights in Hagerstown, MD. Each night cost the Plaintiff approximately \$100.00. Plaintiff's economic damage also includes the considerable time he spent traveling from Chicago, IL to Hagerstown, MD. These general travel expenses equal approximately \$7,190.00, which he seeks to recover from the Defendant. Each trip driving took approximately 11.5 hours, one way. The flight took approximately 4 hours each way. Plaintiff makes approximately \$95.00 an hour when he is paid on an hourly basis (otherwise, he is a tenured college professor). He estimates he has incur at least 77 hours in travel time due to Defendant's improperly identifying him as a sex offender.

B. Non-economic Damages

The Plaintiff seeks damages that are unliquidated for the following categories of harm as "actual damage" in this matter. These actual damages are not liquidated and do not lend themselves to a statement of calculation but may be subject to an award of damages. *Williams v. Trader Pub. Co.*, 218 F.3d 481, 486-487 (5th Cir. 2000); *See Burrell v. Crown Central Petroleum, Inc.*, 177 F.R.D. 376, 386 (E.D.Tex.1997). Such damages will be determined by the jury in this matter.

Categories and types of Actual Damages

- i. Plaintiff has suffered emotional and mental anguish, anxiety, frustration, humiliation, embarrassment and annoyance from being denied an apartment.
- ii. This anxiety was manifested in an outbreak of hives and rash over his entire body from a pre-existing medical condition that is worsened by stress or anxiety. As a result of this outbreak, Plaintiff had to take over the counter and use prescription skin care cream to manage the symptoms of the outbreak.
- iii. Plaintiff has suffered emotional and mental anguish, humiliation, anger and frustration, annoyance, and embarrassment as a result of the publication of the false information.
- iv. Plaintiff has suffered general damages in the form of damage to reputation.
- v. Plaintiff has been strapped with a false history, causing mental anguish, emotional distress, frustration, humiliation, and annoyance.
- vi. Plaintiff has suffered lost opportunities to spend time with his daughter

who is attending college in Maryland. He also lost opportunities to obtain another apartment in a more geographically desirable for fear that he would be accused of being a sex offender again.

vii. Plaintiff suffers anxiety when considering applying for a new apartment or thinking that his employer, teenage students or his students' parents will learn he was accused of being a sex offender, because he believes, justifiably, that she will be forced to once again subject herself to the humiliation of having to explain the false and defamatory information previously that has been circulated about him is untrue.

Case Law Supporting Actual Damages

Such damages will likely be in keeping with the following decisions and settlements involving consumer credit issues and damages for emotional distress, embarrassment and humiliation and similar elements:

Adams v. Phillips, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24888 (E.D. La. 2002) (\$225,000 actual damages based upon general and economic damage theories);

Anderson v. Conwood Co. 34 F. Supp. 2d 650 (W.D. Tenn. 1999) (\$50,000 in actual damages awarded in absence of testimony other than worry, stress and anxiety);

Bach v. First Union, No. 3:01CV191 (S. D. Ohio) (\$400,000 in actual damages);

Bell v. May Dep't Stores, (Missouri 2000, Case No. 22942-09508-01, jury award \$50,000 actual damages);

Boris v. Choicepoint Servs., Inc., 249 F.Supp2d 851 (W.D. Ky. Mar. 14, 2003) (\$197,000 emotional distress damages remitted to \$100,000 based upon inaccurate credit reporting by credit reporting agency);

Brimm v. Midland Credit Management, Inc., (N.D. AL February 25, 2011) (\$100,000 jury verdict for actual damages and \$623,180 for punitive damages for emotional distress and lost credit based upon Defendant's violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.)

Brown v. Experian, No. 3:01CV1967-RNC (D. Conn. April 16, 2004) (\$50,000 jury verdict for emotional distress damages and lost credit in reinvestigation case under 15 U.S.C. §1681i defended by Jones Day);

Conseco Finance Servicing Corp. v. Carlson, District Court, Creek County, Sapulpa Division, State of Oklahoma, No. CJ 00 227, Feb. 14, 2002 (\$450,000 in actual damages for emotional distress);

Drew v. Equifax No. 3:07CV726-SI (N.D. Cal. Aug. 8, 2010) (\$315,000 in compensatory damages for emotional distress, plus \$6,326.00 in other actuals);

Guimond v. Trans Union, 45 F.3d 1329 (9th Cir. 1995) (jury awarded \$275,000 for humiliation and mental distress damages available under FCRA following remand);

Johnson v. MBNA, (E.D. Va. 2002) (jury award of \$90,300 for emotional distress and damage to reputation sustained against credit furnisher MBNA for negligent investigation of consumer's dispute in violation of FCRA section 1681s 2(b) appeal reported at 357 F.3d 426 (4th Cir.2004);

Jorgenson v Experian, No. 96CV286-JE (D. Ore. 1998)(\$600,000 in actual damages);

Kirkpatrick v. Equifax, (2005 WL 1231485, May 23, 2005, D. Oregon) (\$210,000 actual damages for identity theft reinvestigation claim);

McGowan v. Warner, No. 95CV3310 (Alabama 1999)(\$1.85 million to theft of identity victim);

Mills v. NationsBank (3rd Judicial District, Lake City, Florida, 1999) (Jury award \$140,000 actual);

Mullins v. Equifax Info. Servs., Inc., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 62912 (E.D. VA. Aug. 27, 2007) (jury verdict upheld \$20,000 in actual damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages)

Robinson v. Equifax, No. 06CV1336 (E.D. Va. 2006)(\$200,000 actual damages for identity theft reinvestigation claim) aff'd at 560 F.3d 235 (4th Cir. 2009);

Sloane v. Equifax, No. 1:05CV1272-LMB (E.D. Va. 2005)(\$350,000 actual damages for identity theft reinvestigation claim);

Soghomonian v. Trans Union, No. Civ. F 99CV5773-SMS (E.D. Cal. 2004) stipulated at 2005 WL 1972594 (E.D.Ca. June 20, 2005) (\$330,000 actual damages);

Thomas v. Trans Union, No. 3:00CV1150 (Jan. 20, 2003)(docket #184)(\$300,000 actual damage for emotional distress);

Thompson v. Equifax, (2003 WL 1579757, M.D. Ala., March 3, 2003) (jury award \$80,000);

Thompson v. San Antonio Retail Merchant, 682 F.2d 509 (5th Cir. 1982)(\$10,000 actual damages for humiliation and mental distress even when no out of pocket expenses);

Wenger v. Trans Union, No. 2:95CV6445-ER (C.D. Cal. 1996)(\$200,000 actual damages award);

Williams v. Equifax, 9th Judicial Circuit, Orange County, Florida, Case No. 48-2003-CA-9035-0, Nov. 17, 2007 (\$219,000 actual damages)

Zamora v. Valley Fed. S&L Ass'n, 811 F.2d 1368 (10th Cir. 1987) (\$61,500 in actual damages for emotion distress sustained based on impermissible access of consumer report under false pretenses);

Zotta v. Nations Credit, No: 4:02 CV 1650 (E.D. Mo. Jan. 28, 2004)(\$87,000 actual damages award).

Adams v. Phillips, 2002 WL 31886737 (E.D. La. Dec. 19, 2002)(\$200,000 actual damages);

Reilly v. Duvall County Public Schools, 2007 WL 2120547 (M.D. Fla. July 23, 2007)(\$208,197.18 actuals awarded, but capped at \$100,000 under Florida law);

Quitto v. Bay Colony Golf Clubs, 2007 WL 4098847 (M.D. Fla. Nov. 15, 2007)(\$130,000 actual damages);

Peer v. Lewis, 2008 WL 2047578 (S.D. Fla)(\$133,200 damages, remittitur to \$12,500);

Jansen v. Experian, 2011 WL 846876 (D. Or. Mar. 9, 2011)(stipulated judgment of \$275,000).

Miller v. Equifax Information Services, LLC., 3:11-cv-1231 (D. Or. 2011) (awarding 18.4 million dollars in damages against Equifax)

C. Punitive Damages.

The Plaintiff seeks punitive damages which are unliquidated in this matter based upon the factors set forth in *Mathias v. Accor Economy Lodging, Inc.*, 347 F.3d 672 (7th Cir. 2004). Punitive damages will be proven through the Plaintiff's testimony, that of his expert witness and through the testimony of the employees of the Defendant against who such damages are sought.

Case Law Supporting Punitive Damages.

Such damages are expected to fall within the general range of those cases outlined below dealing with punitive damages in consumer credit cases.

Bach v. First Union Nat. Bank, 486 F.3d 150, 152 (6th Cir. 2007) \$2,628,600 in punitive damages remitted to \$400,000 in one-dispute case);

Boris v. ChoicePoint Servs., Inc., 249 F.Supp.2d 851, (W.D. Ky. 2003)(\$250,000 in punitive damages award was appropriate under FCRA);

Brimm v. Midland Credit Management, Inc., No. CV 10-J-369-NE (N.D. AL February 25, 2011) (\$623,180 jury verdict for punitive damages for emotional distress and lost credit based upon Defendant's violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.)

Conseco Finance Servicing Corp. v. Carlson, District Court, Creek County, Sapulpa Division, State of Oklahoma, No. CJ-00-227, Feb. 14, 2002 (jury award of \$ 900,000 in punitive damages upheld);

Dixon-Rollins v. Trans Union (E.D. Pa. Civ. No. 09-0646) (\$30,000 jury verdict for actual damages) (jury award of \$500,000 in punitive damages, remitted to \$270,000)

Drew v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC, C 07-00726 SI, 2010 WL 5022466 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 3, 2010) (No remittitur of \$700,000 punitive damage award);

Mills v. NationsBank, N.A. 3d Judicial District of Florida (Lake County1999) (Jury award \$300,000 punitive damages for false credit reports)

Mullins v. Equifax Info. Servs., Inc., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 62912 (E.D. VA. Aug. 27, 2007) (jury verdict upheld \$20,000 in actual damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages)

Saunders v. Branch Banking and Trust Co., of Virginia, 526 F. 3d 142 (4th Cir. 2008) Fourth Circuit affirmed jury award under FCRA of \$1,000 statutory damages and \$80,000 punitive damages)

Soghomonian v. Trans Union, No. 99CV5773, 2005 WL 1972594(E.D. Ca 2005)(\$660,000 punitive damages);

Thomas v. Trans Union, No. 3:00CV1150 (D. Or. Jan. 29, 2003) (\$5 million for punitive damages, remitted to \$1 million);

Thorton v. Equifax Inc., 467 F. Supp. 1008 (E.D. Ark. 1979) (\$250,000 in punitive damages).

Williams v. Equifax Information Solutions, LLC: Circuit Ct. or 9th Judicial Circuit, Orange County, Florida – No. 48-2003-CA-9035-O; order dated Nov. 17, 2007; jury verdict, Nov. 30, 2007 (\$2.7 million in punitive damages).

Miller v. Equifax Information Services, LLC., 3:11-cv-1231 (D. Or. 2011) (awarding 18.4 million dollars in damages against Equifax)

D. Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

The Plaintiff also seeks his attorneys' fees and costs in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1681n. If the Court or jury determines that Defendant's conduct was negligent, Plaintiff would seek his attorneys' fees and costs in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1681o.

Plaintiff reserves the right to further supplement these disclosures.

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES L. WILLIAMS

By: /s/ Kristi C. Kelly
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 22nd day of March, 2016, I will electronically file the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will then send a notification of such filing (NEF) to the following counsel of record:

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